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Reno Public Meeting
October 4, 2001

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PEGGY LEAR BOWEN: My name is Peggy Lear

10 Bowen, a lifelong Nevadan, came here when I was 13 months
11 old. I teach the children. This is the beginning of my
12 30th year.

13 PAUL HARRINGTON: Can you spell your name?

14 PEGGY LEAR BOWEN: Peggy as in P-e-g-g-y, and
15 Lear is my middle name, L-e-a-r, Bowen is my last name,
16 B-o-w-e-n.

17 And I have to tell you this, gentlemen and
18 ladies and distinguished groups, as a human being, what
19 this dump would do in a repository for the good of this
20 earth is not in existence.

21 I forget to mention one other thing. I'm
22 also elected to the Nevada State Board of Education. I
23 don't speak for them. I just simply happen to be elected
24 to that board. I wanted you to know that this isn't just
25 a person who comes out and rallies and goes against

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1 anything and everything that comes up.

2 What we're talking about is the future of
3 Nevada, the future of this planet, the future of the
4 existence of mankind. When you're messing with nuclear
5 waste, you need not to deposit it in one place and make

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6 it vulnerable to attack; you need not to deposit it in
7 one place where you know that the ground has multiple
8 breaks in the ground and aquifers of water flowing
9 underneath our desert floors throughout the west.

10 You need to know that a depository of nuclear
11 waste is a depository of an explosion within -- that
12 could send mankind right straight -- excuse the term --
13 to hell.

14 You need to understand that these people are
15 looking at scientific investigation. You need to
16 understand that we're trying to get the same information
17 you're getting. We're trying to interpret the
18 information and we're not stupid. Collectively we have
19 as much going for us as you do, and collectively what
20 we're saying is, what's the rush here to put it all in
21 the State of Nevada? Are we so expendable? Do we not
22 matter? Does this part of the United States of America,
23 the melting pot, mean that we can melt and the rest can
24 go to pot? I mean, let's face it.

25 What I tell the children, they matter, they

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1 are a value, they are the future. Why would we
2 jeopardize the future on bad science to rush a political

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3 activity, to rush -- get it out of our backyard. Why not
4 go back to the concept of recycling? Duh. Lessen the
5 absolute strength of this stuff. Duh. Maybe get some
6 energy out of it, duh, and maybe get the power bills
7 down, duh, and maybe make this place a better place to
8 live, duh, so that the people have a reason to go on and
9 the children have no reason to fear that we're going to
10 have it in the State of Nevada because we don't count?

11 It needs to be recycled. The science needs
12 to be revisited, and, quite frankly, the science hasn't
13 been done, the homework hasn't been done.

14 I'm a teacher. If you did this kind of
15 homework in my classroom, I'd give you an F, you'd fail.
16 You'd fail to realize reality. You just wouldn't be
17 there for us, you wouldn't have done the job that says
18 what's best, period, not best just for Nevada, not best
19 just for the United States, but best for the world and
20 best, more importantly, for the future. You have got to
21 do your homework, and you can't give us incomplete
22 reports and say that we have to make these decisions and
23 that we have to make -- we have to change this world to
24 give one glowing place? We have to change this world to
25 put one hole in the ground that won't -- in some sort of

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1 fashion that won't last in that hole in the ground but

2 will spread like a cancer?

3 You know, we're doing a lot of research to

4 defeat cancer, to cure cancer. Why would you want to

5 create one? Why would you want to make Yucca Mountain

6 cancerous? Why would you want it to spread? Why in

7 God's name can't we learn to deal with this material that

8 we've created and put it to some good and not put it in a

9 hole in the ground and watch what it can do to destroy.

10 Please, while you're doing your work, the

11 science is bad, the location is bad. I don't know of any

12 location that would be good, especially in great amounts.

13 I don't think there is one. I think you need to deal

14 with what you have. You need to neutralize it and you

15 need to get the goodness out of it that you possibly can

16 and stop taking what will potentially ruin us forever and

17 make it a potential for maybe power, for maybe future

18 science in order to make it good.

19 Don't stick it in a hole in the ground and

20 hope to God it doesn't go to the water. This planet has

21 the amount of water it had when it was created, lots of

22 different forms of it. Maybe some of it's more polluted

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23 now, maybe some of it is less ice now, maybe some of it
24 flowing through streams in different colors, smells and
25 shapes, but it's the exact same amount of water. Don't,
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1 don't make it a killer stream coming from the -- flowing
2 from the state of Nevada and going throughout the
3 aquifers. Please don't do that. Don't make it the acid
4 rain. Don't let it pour over this earth because somebody
5 somewhere just didn't want to do the job, didn't want to
6 do the homework.

7 The earth is being lent to us to live upon.
8 It's not ours, it's not ours to make -- to destroy. It's
9 ours to make better than when we were given it, and this
10 is not the way to go.

11 Please, in your homework, use your science,
12 and I know emotions sometimes doesn't carry it where
13 government is concerned and laws are concerned, but you
14 have to consider this. Without us, the people, and you
15 representing us, the people, you, the government, do not
16 exist.

17 Show that you are a strong government, show
18 you represent us, and show that you represent this
19 country as the strongest nation in the world by making
20 the strongest, hardest decisions, and don't buy the easy

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- 21 political put-it-in-a-hole-in-Nevada decision. Buy
- 22 what's good to make it great, and have the strength and
- 23 intestinal fortitude to stand up and say, no, this is a
- 24 bad project and it shouldn't go through.
- 25 Thank you.